**From:** Kelley, Craig
**To:** Pamela Berger
**Subject:** RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
**Date:** Friday, April 13, 2018 11:31:00 AM

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Thanks, Pamela.

There is a lot of work to be done here, I just don't know that this is the way to do it.

Best,

Craig

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**From:** Pamela Berger [mailto:berger@bc.edu]
**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2018 9:50 AM
**To:** Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
**Subject:** Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Dear Craig,

Thank you for you immediate response. My concern is not about delegitimizing Israel. My feeling is that Israel has been pursuing an immoral and illegal policy against legitimate Palestinian demands. I have been following this situation for decades, and I have seen the land Israel is grabbing to the East of the UN supported 1967 boundary line. There, in what the world [and previous administrations] have agreed is Palestinian territory, or should be after negotiations, Israel has been tearing down Palestinian houses and destroying crops on Palestinian agricultural lands [olive and lemon groves] and building illegal settlements. One way you might find out about the situation is to view the Academy-Award nominated film, "Five Broken Cameras," [2011] about a Palestinian village in the West Bank. Also, you might check out the Human Rights Watch web pages on Palestine/Israel.

The reason you are getting bombarded is that right-wing Jewish groups seized on this HP resolution to make a call to "support Israel no matter what"! The national newspapers and TV station have been showing the recent killings of unarmed Palestinians demonstrating in their own territory of Gaza, and Israeli snipers killing them, a horror to many of us who have knowledge about the conflict. I know this is an international, not a local, problem, but many, many Cambridge residents are extremely concerned about the issue, and want to know where our elected officials stand on it. As you know, this is a very special community, and human rights loom large, even when they affect far-distant people. That is why Jewish Voices for Peace called upon its members to alert you all to the up-coming debate about the legitimacy of using the boycott as a political pressure tool. I myself feel it is a response head and shoulder above violence.

Again, I appreciate not getting a form response, but an actual letter. I'll keep in mind that you took the time to write to me.

All Best,
Pamela

On Apr 13, 2018, at 8:39 AM, Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Pamela.

I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School last week. I am meeting with pro and con folks next week and the week after to learn more.

Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.

I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.

But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.

Craig